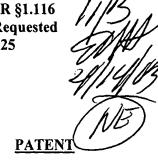


Response Under 37 CFR §1.116 Expedited Procedure Requested Examination Group 1725





IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Applicant

North et al.

Serial No.

09/772,708

Filed

January 30, 2001

Title :

WELDING ELECTRODE AND METHOD FOR REDUCING

MANGANESE IN FUME

Docket

483471-003

Examiner

Elve, Maria Alexandra

Art Unit:

1725

HECEIVED

APR 1 1 2003

GROUP 1700

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested in view of the following discussion.

Please rewrite claims 1, 3, 7, and 8 as follows:

- 1. A cored electrode for arc welding, said electrode having a core in which the fill material includes a manganese-containing composite particle wherein the composite particle contains manganese in admixture with a shielding material.
- 3. The electrode of claim 1 wherein the shielding material is TiO_2 .
- 7. The electrode of claim 1 wherein the composite particle contains manganese encapsulated in a coating of said shielding material.